



**Remarks by U.S. Ambassador Lewis Lukens  
Joint Annual Review of the USAID Portfolio with the Government of Senegal  
June 11, 2013**

*(As prepared)*

Mr. Minister,  
Mr. Director DCEF,  
Dear partners and employees of ministries and implementing agencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to be here this morning with the Government of Senegal to review the portfolio of U.S. development assistance to Senegal through the U.S. Agency for International Development.

I applaud the collaboration of USAID and the ministries with which we work on a daily basis. This annual review is important, because it ensures that our assistance remains aligned with the Government of Senegal's priorities.

In 2012, the United States provided more than one hundred and nine million dollars in assistance to Senegal, including \$55 million in health, \$27 million in Economic Growth and Agriculture, \$19 million in Education, and \$8 million toward Good Governance.

In Senegal, as all across the world, U-S-A-I-D is working more directly with government agencies and local NGOs and private sector organizations to help boost capacity, business acumen, and growth potential of local institutions. Over the next two years, we intend to channel up to one-third of our funding through Senegalese partners in both the private and public sectors.

In Health, the U.S. Global Health Initiative and President's Malaria Initiative have assisted Senegal in making significant progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals for maternal and child health.

USAID has assisted Senegal in expanding access to family planning with modern contraceptives to thousands more women through innovative community-based service delivery.

Additionally, USAID continues to expand access to health care through the establishment of new community "health huts"; increasing them from 1,600 to 1,900 in rural communities across Senegal. Through health care provider training, we are helping to improve the quality of health care services in all health districts, contributing to a 41 percent decrease in under-five child mortality since the last Demographic Health Survey in 2005, one of the biggest drops in all Africa.

Agriculture, the engine of economic growth and poverty reduction for Senegal, is another key component of the USAID program.

Through Feed the Future, President Obama's global food security initiative, the U.S. Government works to increase agriculture sector growth and improve the nutritional status of Senegalese.

In 2012, the US Government helped create more than 9,000 new jobs, trained more than 70,000 farmers affiliated with producers' groups, and brought together networks to ensure farmers access to the highest quality seed, resulting in \$3 million in new revenues last year.

In education, the American people have over the last four years provided basic education for more than 60,000 vulnerable children, including girls, Koranic students, and other children in danger of dropping out.

One program works closely with *marabouts* as well as the Education Ministry to modernize education in the *daaras* across the country by introducing French, math, and other basic education courses into the curricula.

The United States is also nearly finished with the process of setting up a private sector Foundation for Education, including the installation of a governing board. This Foundation is dedicated to fundraising for education with an emphasis on recruiting more private organizations.

We continue to work with the Government of Senegal to construct middle schools, creating access to education for 11,200 students, of which 52 percent are girls, across the country. Overall, USAID has constructed nearly 100 schools in the last decade.

In 2012, USAID also funded the Ministry of Education directly to implement a program that will improve the quality of reading and math instruction for all students in the early primary grades.

This ground-breaking program puts the Government in the driver's seat to address pressing literacy and quality of education issues, with technical guidance and support from USAID.

USAID built on the successful 2012 presidential elections conducted by Senegal to assist similar efforts in the parliamentary elections.

Our funding supported the excellent work international and local implementing partners were already doing, while enhancing the capacity of Senegalese civil society organizations to implement additional programs.

USAID is among several U.S. agencies actively promoting community dialogue and reconciliation in the Casamance, having trained more than 43,000 men and women in reconciliation and local administration since 2010.

Despite these successes, challenges remain for Senegal. The government must strengthen supervision of local health systems, and maintain medical stock supplies. We applaud the government for resolving the longstanding health data reporting strike, restoring an exceptionally valuable tool for planning and monitoring the status of the nation's health system.

In agriculture, seed laboratories must be fully staffed, the *Programme National d'Investissement Agricole* must see stronger coordination, and agricultural laws reformed.

A stronger educational system requires better coordination between central and district officials and annual budgets fully dispersed to meet specified targets.

Again, I welcome the continued strong collaboration between Senegal and the United States.

Through USAID, the United States is committed to strengthening our collaboration to improve the health and food security of families, especially mothers and children; get more children to enroll and stay in school; and ensure more eligible workers have the opportunity to earn a decent living and provide for their families.

Thank you for your attention.